

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A superconductive magnetic bearing comprising:
a stationary bearing portion having an annular superconductor unit provided on a fixed portion[[,]]; and

a rotatable bearing portion having an annular permanent magnet unit provided on a rotary portion so as to be opposed to the superconductor unit,

wherein the superconductor unit ~~comprising~~ includes a plurality of circumferentially divided superconductor bulks, the adjacent superconductor bulks coming into contact with each other without a gap to constitute the superconductor unit, and the rotary portion being contactlessly supported relative to the fixed portion by the pinning effect of a superconductor constituting the superconductor unit,

~~the superconductive magnetic bearing being characterized in that,~~ wherein in order to reduce a rotation loss of the rotatable bearing portion due to unevenness of magnetic fields occurring by the construction that the superconductor unit ~~comprises~~ includes the plurality of superconductor bulks circumferentially divided and that the adjacent superconductor bulks comes into contact with each other without a gap, the rotatable bearing portion ~~comprises~~ includes the annular permanent magnet unit and an annular yoke adjacent to the permanent magnet unit and opposed to the superconductor unit,

wherein the permanent magnet unit ~~comprises~~ includes a plurality of permanent magnet members arranged in superposed layers with an insulating layer provided between each adjacent pair of magnet members,

wherein the yoke ~~comprises~~ includes a plurality of yoke members made of a magnetic material and arranged in superposed layers with an insulating layer interposed between each adjacent pair of yoke members, and

wherein the insulating layers of the yoke members ~~are configured to~~ directly contact ~~substantially~~ an entire area of a contact surface of each adjacent yoke member.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).